(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges at the District Headquarter converted into electronic exchange in the State of Uttar Pradesh and the name of exchanges at District Headquarter still manually operated; and

(b) what steps are being taken to convert them into electronic exchange and by when all the telephone exchanges at District Headquarter in Uttar Pradesh would be converted in electronic exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 4 manual telephone exchanges during 1990-91 and 3 during 1991-92 were converted into electronic exchanges at District Headquarters in U.P. There is no manual telephone exchange at any District Headquarter now.

(b) Does not arise.

LP agents operating Post offices in the country

3687. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of LP agents operating post offices in Delhi and elsewhere; if so, their number of operation indicating whether they are expected to observe the normal working hours and whether this is actually being observed;

(b) whether services of any of these LP agents have been terminated so far non compliance of these LP agents have been terminated so far for non compliance of the terms and conditions including strict observance of business hours; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint Extra Departmental Staff to run these LP agencies by alloting each of these agencies to 3-4 of them for joint running of each agency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. There are only 8 L operating in Delhi and 178 in the of the country. They have to work a minimum of three hours daily. can be extended by the agent to suit convenience of the public.

((b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal?

Automation of telephone system

3688. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for total a mation of telephone system has t evolved by Government;

(b) if so, what are its salient feat and objectives; and

(c) the expenditure is likely to be curred on the scheme and by when i likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN T MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIC (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAI (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available infor tion 417 manual telephone exchanges existing in the country as on 1.4.19 As a part of modernisation plan of telecom network to provide impro service to the users and also to in duce NSD/ISD/Group Dialling facilit Government have planned to repl these exchanges by Automatic Teleph Exchanges of suitable capacity.

(c) (i) 246 crores (Approx.).

(ii) By March, 1994.

Suggestion of Videsh Sanchar Niga Limited about handling of telephone traffic

3689. SHRI SURESH KALMAI Will the Minister of COMMUNIC TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vid Sanchar Nigam Limited has signed